

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 01773 182021Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-07 L-03

SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /111 W

----- 034699

Z O 181635Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO COMIDEASTFOR FLASH

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 5866

INFO USS ADAMS IMMEDIATE

USS MCCANDLESS IMMEDIATE

USS KOELSCH IMMEDIATE

USS BRUMBY IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT FLT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, ENRG, MA, US

SUBJ: DIEGO-SUAREZ TURNOVER

REF: TANANARIVE 1768

BEGIN SUMMARY: HEAD OF GOVT GENERAL RAMANANTSOA HAS WASHED HANDS OF PROBLEM AND LEFT DECISION ENTIRELY UP TO FOREIGN MINISTER. LATTER CONFIRMED TO HEAD OF GOVT'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR THAT DECISION TO RESCIND AUTHORIZATION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. CHAGUYONS WILL ATTEMPT MAKE LAST DITCH APPEAL TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON GROUNDS OF EXISTING DANGER TO SAFETY OF VESSELS, BUT OUTLOOK IS EXTREMELY GRIM, AND COMIDEASTFOR SHOULD PROCEED WITH CONTINGENCY PLANS. END SUMMARY.

1. HAVING HEARD NOTHING FROM MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS TECHNICAL  
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PAGE 02 TANANA 01773 182021Z

COUNSELOR AND NOT BEING ABLE CONTACT HIM BY TELEPHONE I CALLED UDB OF GOVT'S DIP ADVISOR HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO AT 1700 HOURS

LOCAL TIME. SHOWED HIM FILE OF NOTES ON SHIP VISIT, STARTING IN SEPTEMBER THROUGH GOMR'S AUTHORIZATION AND ASSURANCE FRENCH WOULD MAKE FUEL AVAILABLE AND FINALLY LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN DECISION. EXPLAINED SHIPS HAD BEEN PROCEEDING TO DS IN GOOD FAITH ON BASIS GOMR'S DEC 11 APPROVAL AND WOULD NOW BE IN SERIOUS DANGER IF NOT ABLE TO GO THERE. SAID THAT ON AUTHORITY MY GOVT, I WAS BRINGING MATTER TO ATTENTION HEAD OF GOVT, PARTICULARLY SINCE UNABLE REACH FOREIGN MINISTRY ACTION OFFICER FOR PROMISED REPORT.

2. DIP ADVISOR AGREED IMMEDIATELY THAT MATTER MERITED HEAD OF GOVT'S ATTENTION. HE RETURNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES LATER WITH DISCOURAGING NEWS HEAD OF GOVT HAD SAID DECISION WAS ENTIRELY THAT OF FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA WHO HAD JUST RETURNED TANANARIVE MORNING DEC 18. DIP ADVISOR HAD THEN TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER IMMEDIATELY, BUT LATTER HAD SAID WORDS TO EFFECT, "MY SERVICES GOOFED IN APPROVING VISIT IN FIRST PLACE, AND FOR THAT I AM SINCERELY SORRY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW MIDEAST EVENTS, VISIT TO MADAGASCAR OF ANY AMERICAN WARSHIP IS UNTHINKABLE."

3. AFTER AGAIN LISTENING TO MY REVIEW OF DANGER TO SHIPS, DIP ADVISOR SAID ALL HE COULD SUGGEST IS THAT I MAKE REQUEST TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER TOMORROW MORNING. "FOREIGN MINISTER IS NAVAL OFFICER", DIP ADVISOR SAID, "AND MAYBE THE TECHNICAL ARGUMENT COULD SWAY HIM." DIP ADVISOR INDICATED HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN EVENING DEC 18, AND I ASKED HIM TO INDICATE THAT I WOULD BE WILLING BE CALLED IN AT ANY HOUR DAY OR NIGHT IN VIEW URGENCY OF MATTER. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT FOREIGN MINISTER IS CAPABLE NAVAL OFFICER WHO CAN DISCUSS TECHNICAL MATTERS.

4. DIP ADVISOR WAS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY GOMR'S MANNER IN TREATING AFFAIR. I TOLD HIM PRESENT GOMR AND EMBASSY HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES FRANKLY, AND I REGRETTED THAT TECHNICAL CONSIDERATION WAS ABRUPTLY GIVEN AS EXCUSE FOR POLITICAL DECISION. ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT HAVE LIKED EARLIER TURNDOWN ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AND WOULD HAVE ARGUED ISSUES ON MERITS, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN INTO SITUATION WHICH IS NOW EMBARRASSING TO BOTH GOVTS AND ENDANGERING SAFETY OF SHIPS.

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PAGE 03 TANANA 01773 182021Z

5. ACTION REQUEST FOR COMIDEASTFOR: REQUEST FULL DETAILS ON ACTUAL DANGER TO SHIPS IF DIVERTED. MUST HAVE BEST POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ARGUMENT FOR LAST DITCH ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE COMMANDER RATSIRAKA.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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